

Ching Shih: The World's Most Successful Pirate
Discussion Guide
Grades 3-8

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- What is a pirate? Do you think pirates are good or bad? Why?
- What might make a pirate *successful*?
- Frontload vocabulary

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections. Prompt students to provide support for their answers from the text.

- How does Ching Shih become the leader of the pirate confederation? What makes her qualified?
- Why do you think Ching Shih has Cheung Po Tsai tell the crew that the gods blessed their mission?
- How does Ching Shih use the Imperial Traders to make money?
- Why does the emperor say that Ching Shih's confederation of pirates is "terrorizing the shores"?
- What does the emperor try to do to stop Ching Shih? Why is it unsuccessful?
- What is Ching Shih's bigger problem than the emperor?
- Why does Ching Shih agree to meet with the government?
- How does Ching Shih get to surrender the way she wants to?
- What makes Ching Shih the most successful pirate of all time?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

Do you agree Ching Shih is the most successful pirate of all time? Use evidence from the text to support why she is or is not, in your opinion.

A pirate may seem like an odd choice for a role model, but Ching Shih is a famous pirate for a reason. What characteristics of hers could you try to include in your life? Give examples.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.